



## HOUSTON HINTS: 7 DAILY ACTIVITIES FOR BUDDING MATHEMATICIANS

It is essential that we develop confident and competent mathematicians. While they are learning core concepts in class, you can supplement their learning at home. You can talk to your child's teacher for more ways to practice what they learn at home.

- 1. Show me the money...** Empty your pocket or change purse each evening and have your child count out the money. When checking out at a store, ask your child to help select the correct change to make your purchase or determine how much change you will receive. Store with a self-check lane are great for this! Your child can see the total and watch it decrease as they insert bills and coins.
- 2. It's all about time...** We need to be at football practice at 4. It takes 15 minutes to get to the field from our house. What time should we leave? Ask your child to help solve real-world problems involving time.
- 3. Gas up...** For an older child, ask them to calculate gas mileage when you fill your tank.
- 4. Talk the talk...** Look for comparisons and use math vocabulary like greater than, less than, greatest and fewest.
- 5. A numbers game...** Play games that involve your child doing math. Dominoes, chess, checkers and puzzles all reinforce math learning. Ask your child to add up scores after a hand of cards or a round of Scrabble. Other games include Monopoly/Monopoly Jr., Yahtzee and Trouble.
- 6. Yummy math...** Cooking offers numerous opportunities for kids to practice their math skills. Talk about fractions when you use measuring cup and spoons. Have a crowd for dinner? Ask your child to double the recipe. Just a few? Ask them to halve the recipe. Younger children can practice counting with Cherrios or grapes.
- 7. Smart shopper...** Store ads give your child another opportunity to compare, relating math to everyday situations. Have them clip coupons to take to the store and then determine the discounted price. Ask them to add all the coupons up and figure out your total savings.